



Kidstown

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Talking with Your Kids about Racism A Grace Chapel Kidstown Statement

These have been some unsettling days in our country. As followers of Jesus, we long for all people to feel valued and honored for their uniqueness and individual beauty and gifts. We believe that everyone has been made in the image of God and no one has the right to treat anyone else as if they do not matter. Children have an incredible capacity to welcome those who are different from themselves, oftentimes better than adults. They have so much to teach us about acceptance and they are finding the unrest in our country hard to understand.

So how do we talk with our kids about race? First, we examine our own experience and biases. Take time to lament the current situation in our country. Seek forgiveness for things we may have done or left undone. If you are white, shift your posture to that of active listening to those who are in pain. If you are someone of a minority cultural background and experience, share your story.

Kids, and grownups, are asking: Why is there racism? Why can't people get along with one another? Because the world is broken. Teach your children these four very basic movements in God's grand narrative of scripture. Open a Bible and read these passages with them.

Creation – God created everything in creation, called it good, then created humankind male and female and called this last part of his creation, very good. Genesis 1:26-27, 31.

The Fall – The first woman and man believed the lie of the Evil One and sinned against God by disobeying his instructions. As a result of this fall, the world became a broken place and people continued to disobey God's plan to take care of the earth and one another. Gen. 3:1-13, 21-24.

Redemption – God planned from the moments after the Fall to redeem his creation and the people he loves. In Genesis 3:14-15 the Lord God speaks of how the offspring of the woman will crush the head of the offspring of the serpent. The offspring of the woman to whom God refers is Jesus. The offspring of the serpent is sin and evil.

Read what the angel Gabriel said to Mary in Luke 1:26-33; what the angels said to the shepherds in Luke 2:8-11; what Simeon and Anna said about Jesus when his parents brought him to the temple as a baby in Luke 2:28-38; and what Peter said on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2: 22-24, 29-33, 36-39.

Restoration – God plans to heal the whole world and drive out evil for good someday. The angels and elders in heaven sing to Jesus in Revelation 5:9-10 that people from every nation, and tribe, and language will come before his throne in heaven. God gave the disciple John a vision of what the new heaven and new earth would look like in Revelation 21:1-7.

Friends tell your kids, this is God's big story. And we have an important part to play in his story while we wait for the time when everything is fully restored! Jesus said it himself in John 13:34-35,

"A new command I give you, Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will that know you are my disciples, if you love one another."

God made you to look just the way you are, because He wants that family to look different, and colorful, and exciting! You can be a part of helping to grow God's family by being friends with people who don't look just like you! Your friends will know that you love Jesus by the way that you love them!